

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSTATE 287149

ADP409

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 HA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SPRS-02 /059 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:R G RICH:AG
APPROVED BY EA/K:R G RICH
L:J SMITH
HA:T TULL
L/EA:T FORTUNE

O 272149Z OCT 80
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

STATE 287149

E.O. 12055: RDS-4 10/17/90 (RICH, ROBERT G.)

TAGS: CHNS, SHUM, KS

SUBJECT: KWANGJU VERDICTS

REF: SEOUL 14115, SEOUL 14053

1. ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IN ORDER TO EVALUATE EITHER FROM STANDPOINT OF POLITICAL DYNAMICS OR HUMAN RIGHTS, WE URGENTLY NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE KWANGJU TRIAL AND THE ACTS FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANTS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION PROMPTLY WHICH WILL PROVIDE SOME BASIS FOR INSIGHTS AT LEAST ON THE ACTIONS OF THOSE FIVE WHO RECEIVED CAPITAL SENTENCES AND THE SEVEN WHO RECEIVED LIFE IMPRISONMENT, AND

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THE NATURE OF THE TRIAL JUST COMPLETED. DEFENDANT CHONG TONG-NYON IS OF SPECIAL INTEREST ALSO BECAUSE OF ALLEGATIONS WHICH AROSE IN THE KIM DAE JUNG TRIAL. SPECIAL EFFORT IS THEREFORE WARRANTED TO DETERMINE EVIDENCE, CHARGES, AND DEFENSE IN HIS CASE.

4. SUGGEST CONTACTING MISSIONARIES AND OTHERS IN KWANGJU, AND IF NECESSARY AGAIN SENDING EMBASSY OFFICER TO THE AREA. ROKG SOURCES SHOULD ALSO BE CONTACTED FOR INFORMATION ON

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

TRB Date 9/13/93

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MR Cases Only:

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EO Citations

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THE TRIAL, NOTING THAT THE SECRECY WITH WHICH IT WAS CONDUCTED INEVITABLY LEADS TO DOUBTS AND QUESTIONS INTERNATIONALLY AND THAT WE NEED TO BE WELL INFORMED IF WE ARE NOT TO DRAW THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS.

5. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE EMBASSY'S CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERACTION OF THIS TRIAL AND VERDICT WITH THE CONTINUING TRIAL OF KIM DAE-JUNG AND HIS ASSOCIATES. WILL FAILURE OF USG TO COMMENT FORCEFULLY ON THE KWANGJU TRIAL PROVIDE A FALSE IMPRESSION ABOUT OUR REACTION TO A KIM EXECUTION? DO WE HAVE GROUNDS AND A FIRM BASIS (OTHER THAN THE SECRECY OF THE KWANGJU PROCEEDINGS) TO PROTEST THE LATTER TRIAL? SINCE IT INVOLVED A NEAR INSURRECTIONARY EPISODE, WE WOULD WISH TO BE FAIRLY SURE OF OUR GROUNDS BEFORE MAKING AN ISSUE OF THIS MATTER, BUT NEITHER DO WE WISH TO DISREGARD IT IF A SERIOUS DISTORTION OF JUSTICE IS INVOLVED.

6. ALSO REPORT REACTIONS AMONG CHURCH GROUPS AND OTHERS WHO MAY HAVE ACCESS TO SOME OF THE DEFENDANTS' FAMILIES OR ACTIVITIES.

7. PLEASE DEVELOP INFO ON TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF APPEALS, AS WELL AS WHO WILL BE INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH THIS IS OF LESS URGENCY THAN BASIC INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS ALREADY TRANS-

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PIRED. CHRISTOPHER

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